

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FRENCH TV INDIAN OCEAN SERIES

REF: LEDERER/DRAPER TELECON AUGUST 20 AND PARIS 21082

1. PRODUCER FRENCH TV INDIAN OCEAN SERIES DU JONCHAY
CLAIMS COMMITMENT INTERVIEW ADMIRAL GORCHTKOV IN MOSCOW
NEXT MONTH "FIRM" WITH TECHNICAL ASPECTS TO BE HANDLED
BY AUDIO-VISUAL BRANCH OF NOVOSTI. AS WITH U.S. SPOKES-
MAN RANGE OF TOPICS (SEE PARA 2 BELOW) WAS SUBMITTED TO
SOVIETS IN ADVANCE WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT ONLY QUESTIONS
AGREED TO BY GORCHTKOV WILL BE RAISED. (FRENCH TV STILL
AWAITING SOVIET REACTION.) DU JONCHAY CONFIRMS THAT.
SHORT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF, HE PREFERS
MILITARY OFFICER TO CIVILIAN AS U.S. SPOKESMAN AS BEING
MORE "TELEVISUAL". HE ARGUES THAT, WITH QUESTIONS AGREED
TO IN ADVANCE, MILITARY OFFICER CAN CONSULT FULLY WITH
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HIS CIVILIAN COLLEAGUES (I.E. STATE DEPARTMENT) PRIOR

TO INTERVIEW AND THUS RESPOND AS FULLY AND AUTHORITATIVELY AS CIVILIAN EXPERT.

2. RANGE OF TOPICS SUBMITTED TO ADMIRAL GORCHTKOV FOLLOW: (A) IMPORTANCE OF INDIAN OCEAN TO SOVIET UNION AFTER REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL -- FROM ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW; 1) SIZABLE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPS; 2) THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARITIME TRADE BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES AS WELL AS "INTRA-SOVIET" TRADE I.E. BETWEEN THE BLACK SEA AND VLADIVOSTOK; -- FROM STRATEGIC POINT OF VIEW: 1) GROWING MILITARIZATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. DOES THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDER THAT THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE WESTERN FLEETS AND OF AMERICAN, BRITISH AND FRENCH BRIDGEHEADS IN THE REGION CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO ITS SEA LANES OR TO THOSE OF ANY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES? -- IS THERE A CHINESE THREAT? -- SOVIET 1964 PROPOSALS FOR A DENUCLEARISATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. (B) SUPPORT FOR THE JOINT MADAGASCAR/MOZAMBIQUE/SOMALIA PROPOSALS FOR PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. (C) ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES, MODERNIZATION OF THEIR FLEET (INDIA AND SOMALIA), IMPROVEMENT OF MILITARY PORTS (INDIA, BANGLADESH AND SOMALIA). (D) NAVAL FACILITIES EXTENDED BY INDIAN OCEAN COUNTRIES TO THE SOVIET FLEET (INDIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH YEMEN, IRAQ AND MAURITANIA). (E) OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOVIET NAVY AS RESULT OF THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL. (F) THE SOVIET NAVY: 1) ITS MISSIONS -- ITS CHARACTERISTICS; ITS NEW CAPACITIES FOR INTERVENTION (SUB-MARINES, TASK FORCE, HELICOPTER CARRIERS AND MARINES); 2) HYPOTHESIS OF CONFLICT (PLANETARY OR REGIONAL); 3) THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OKEAL EXERCICE 75.(G)SOVIET UNION'S POSITION: 1) ON WHAT THE AMERICANS CALL "THE SOVIET BASE" IN BERBERA, SOMALIA; 2) THE AMERICAN DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT; 3) THE "ROCK STRATEGY" (I.E. STRATEGY OF ISLAND BASES) DEAR TO WESTERN POWERS); 4) THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN DJIBOUTI; 5) THE ETHIOPIAN CONVULSIONS; 6) IRANIAN EFFORTS TO STABILIZE SITUATION IN PERSIAN GULF AND NORTHERN INDIAN OCEAN (PAKISTAN, OMAN, ARAB SEA); 7) GROWING MILITARIZATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN

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STATES (UGANDA, TANZANIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA); 8) THE SOUTH AFRICAN "FORTRESS"; 9) INDIA AS A NUCLEAR NATION; 10) THE INDIAN OCEAN AS AN IDEAL "NEST" FOR NUCLEAR MISSILE-LAUNCHERS. (H) POSSIBILITY OF A CONFERENCE ON THE SECURITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

3. FIRST PROGRAM IN SERIES, ON PERSIAN GULF, WILL BE AIRED OCTOBER. DU JONCHAY REPORTS THAT TO DATE

GERMAN, DUTCH, SWISS, EGYPTIAN, IRANIAN AND SOUTH
AFRICAN TELEVISIONS HAVE TAKEN OPTION TO BUY SERIES.
LOTSBERG UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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